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points will help to explain: The equal distribution of ornament, proper spacing, and good construction. It is just as ridiculous to see an animal of large proportions represented upon a small scroll,

as to have leaves of larger size at the end of a branch of a tree with smaller ones near the trunk. It is not wise to run counter to the laws of nature so as to make it appear ridiculous—how much more pleasing is it to the eye to see it truly pictured, consistent and correct.

“Nature loves Concord, not contrast, it is man divides Her universal purpose.”

In the art of Amateur House Decoration and the possibilities of design the field is vast and fruitful and many bright flowers, and much precious fruit remain for ornament and delight.

SPANDRILL, WITH BIRD MOTIVE.

## AN ORIENTAL FLAT.

By MRS. FREDERIC VON SCHRADER.

### AN ECLECTIC PARLOR.

PLACE a large Turkish rug in light blues and pinks in the centre of the floor. A white fur mat should go with this in front of the fireplace. Have this latter open if possible, with brass andirons supporting logs. Above this drape the mantel with two and a half yards of China silk embroidered in gold designs. To the right of the mantel and facing the corner near a window place an upright piano, the back turned toward the room. Drape this back with silk flowered brocade in light colors. It can be hung on a brass rod attached to the piano. A delicate water color picture in a gilt Marie Antoinette frame is artistic to hang on this brocade. Stand a piano lamp on one side of the piano, having a pale yellow shade. On the other side and near the centre of parlor place a little Moorish coffee table in light pink, holding dainty cups and saucers. An alcove with a triangular seat looks pretty placed in the corner; cover with a soft Turkish rug. Have several silk cushions on this and partially conceal the whole by a dainty lace curtain falling from a piece of fretwork above and half draped across the alcove. This fretwork must be white, and its edges can rest on the picture moulding on either wall. Line walls of this alcove with light blue tapestry or silk. One of the new French screens is highly artistic near the fireplace. A more simple one is prettily made of white gilded wood and filled in with flowered silk. It should be four feet high. Drape folding door or archway with Bagdad portière. An original idea is to rip the centre strip out of this and place horizontally over the top of the door, letting the ends fall naturally. Hang a bamboo curtain in light blue and crystal beads in the centre of the doorway and on each side hang the remaining strips of portière from under the piece running across the top. Have chairs in gilt, upholstered in silk brocade, with a Vienna rocker, small size, in ash. A straw settee is stylish, also covered with a white rug and silk cushions on one side of the room. Bagdad portières are pretty at the doors, while a French boule or ornamental table should stand at one side holding a Dresden china lamp. Drape windows with handsome Irish point lace curtains, first putting sash

curtains of embroidered muslin of the same on the inside to complete this French salon.

### A MOORISH LIBRARY.

As one enters a library the effect should be cozy

and luxurious. Nothing can give this atmosphere of comfort so well as the soft blending colors and rugs of the Orient. Cover the floor with Turkish rugs of brilliant colors and design. In one corner have a divan two feet wide. This can be made like a plain bench with mattress and covered with a soft Turkish rug. Pillows of different sizes should go with this, covered with silk in Oriental blues and reds, and also with the Turkish embroidered squares that come for pillows. At one side place a Cairo stand with brass tray holding Turkish coffee pot. This can serve as a smoking table as well and will give an artistic finish to the whole room.

In the corner over the divan suspend from the ceiling a Moorish lamp of carved brass. A candle placed inside of this when lighted will give an Arabian effect, very picturesque. On a good sized reading table in the centre of the room have an ornamental lamp of wrought iron with yellow china shade and base. An easy reading chair

or Turkish embroideries hung on the walls make a rare and artistic room. Have book shelves of oak. They should be four and a half feet high. Drape with silk curtains in front, hung from a brass rod. On the top shelf put bric-à-brac. A Chippendale desk should stand in one corner, with brass trimmings, and bamboo curtains hung at the doors complete this very Oriental and artistic library.

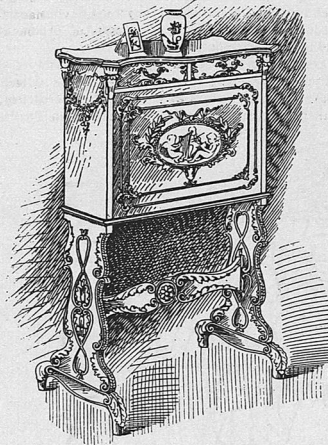
### AN ECONOMICAL DINING-ROOM.

Have an Oriental cashmere rug on the floor. A polished mahogany table and chairs are very handsome to have in this room. An old fashioned mahogany sideboard should go with these, with brass handles. One of oak and less expensive is original and artistic, made like the following illustration. This is composed of stand, with drawers and shelf underneath; an ornamented shelf stands on top. Tack bronze colored leather paper to the back of this, and the effect is pretty when plates and cut glass stand against it. Drape mantel with India grass curtains, wound in with terra cotta colored material. These curtains being narrow, are easy to drape in combination with others. Put a pair of them at each window, first hanging bright Japanese Madras ones in the centre, having an India curtain on each side. These Madras curtains have some gilt in them and are handsomer than the old style of Madras. This arrangement requires four pairs of curtains for two windows and is very effective. In one corner have a glass case or cabinet for china. These come now entirely of glass. Stand handsome plates in this and cups hung from the shelves look very ornamental.

Have always a bowl of flowers, if possible, resting on an embroidered centre piece, placed on the polished surface of the dining table; a few flowers at the windows also will make this room always bright and cheerful. Bamboo curtains at the doors in color to match are necessary to complete, if Indian blankets are not used, and an open fireplace, if possible, with brass andirons.

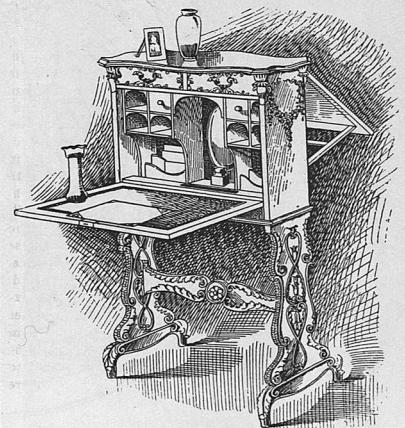
### A SIMPLE BEDROOM.

Put a Japanese art square on the floor, in cream and light blue colors. Have a white enamelled iron bedstead, with brass trimmings. Cover this during the day with a muslin spread over light blue. A round bolster instead of pillows should go with this, covered by the same spread. Have a toilet table, painted white or in light ash; drape the mirror of this with white dotted muslin, letting it fall on each side to the floor.



LADIES' WRITING DESK—CLOSED.

of leather should stand near this. The other chairs can be of rattan with two or more dark wood ones mixed in. Those in colonial style are the most artistic with claw feet. The seat of those should be upholstered with Turkish coverings. Cover the windows with Syrian cotton curtains and drape a Turkish curtain or portière over these, placing one portière at each window only, having it go over the top of the window frame and down on one side. If there is an open grate have brass andirons and drape the mantel with two India cotton tablecloths. These are printed in Oriental colors. The wall above mantel should be draped with a pair of curtains of same material. To carry out this idea of frieze of these goods that come by the yard, and is one foot wide, is handsome to tack on the wall just beneath the ceiling; and other drapings in Japanese



LADIES' WRITING DESK—OPEN.

Have on one side a lounge upholstered in light flowered chintz, with several pillows covered with the same or anything light and pretty. A white fur rug in front of the lounge and a dainty table near

by for books, etc., are very inviting. A chiffonier or chest of drawers in light colored wood with brass trimmings is necessary. Ornament the top with pictures and bric-à-brac, which also should be on the mantel.

Hang dotted muslin sash curtains at the windows, over which put the chintz ones, draped back. Roller shades should go under these latter. Have pale blue and white bamboo curtains at the doors for portières, and this little French boudoir and sleeping room will be finished.

## A PRACTICAL AND PRETTY FLAT.

HOW TO SECURE SIX BEAUTIFUL ROOMS.

### DRAWING-ROOM.

THE large room would have to be drawing-room and library combined. Floor have large rug. Floor margin about eighteen inches varnished. Couch without back or covering in centre of room. Rug or other drapery to be thrown over it. Head of couch piano lamp and small table combined, for book and paper cutter and urn for flowers. Rose colored shade for lamp. Fur rugs both sides of couch, foot-stools galore. Corner by window fancy corner chair; opposite corner piano, cross-ways. Mantel draped with pretty soft silk to have crumpled effect, harmonizing with drapery of couch. From hook in ceiling, directly over end of mantel, chain of ribbon for pretty clock, circular



shape, without feet, without works showing, hanging just clearing mantel. In centre star or triangle frame such as florists use, banked up with fine artificial flowers and grasses. Other end of mantel to have pretty piece of bric-à-brac standing high. Another corner revolving bookcase, as is seen in lawyers' offices. Prettier effect for a flat than the standing bookcase. Three or four rocking chairs—easy chairs. If grate fire, fire screen with old fashioned bench, high back, cushioned, set diagonally from one corner of mantel out in the room; steam-heated fire-place banked up with palms, ferns or rubber plants. Curtains without lambrequins, draped high on one side with square bow of wide sash ribbon. Between piano and bookcase small card table. Between bookcase and door fancy desk with shelf for periodicals. Divans at foot of couch. Beside piano music stand. Piano draped in soft silk. Doors taken down except leading out of kitchen; draperies on poles set in the openings, drapery in door leading from drawing-room to chambers to be draped as windows, one side hanging, the other draped high (to allow for passing without stooping), with square bow of sash ribbon, also fastened in centre.

### CHAMBERS.

Brass bedstead of same style as bed in iron. Floor to be carpeted with plain carpet (no figures). Color light tan, having effect of old fashioned carpets made of rags. Dressing table made of low chests of drawers, with large square mirror, draped with silk shade of carpet. Yellow silk covering for bed. Divan at foot of bed, chairs to match and

rockers; window draperies same as drawing-room. Wardrobe of pretty design, not heavy looking, of oak.

### DINING-ROOM.

Large square table (not extension) of oak, chairs with backs to match. Combination sideboard (not large) for china, linen, etc. Carpet, small figures, wood shades from light cream to dark brown; handsome clock, large calendar and candelabra.



### SPARE ROOM.

A white room, varnished floor. Plenty of white rugs (fur). Iron bedstead, painted white. White silk coverlet for bed. Old fashioned wooden chairs, painted white. Easy chairs white rug, footstools, etc.

### SEWING ROOM AND GIRL'S SLEEPING ROOM COMBINED.

Use a mantel bed, to be closed during the day. Floor to be painted dark brown; a sewing machine, pressing table, sewing chair, bookcase with books combination work basket.

### KITCHEN.

To have cooking utensils of latest patterns, porcelain lined. All grades and sizes of tinware; refrigerator; nothing stunted in the kitchen.

### BATHROOM.

Plenty of hooks for towels, hanging wire soap



DESIGNS FOR A SET OF DESSERT DOILIES, "FLORA'S RETINUE." BY WALTER CRANE.

dishes, flesh brushes with long handles, nail brushes, etc.

### DECORATIVE NOTE.

GERMAN night tapers are curious little contrivances and perfectly odorless. They are sold by the box by all wholesale druggists for five cents, including the float of tin and cork. One of these tiny tapers will burn all night when placed on the float in cotton seed oil. Any shallow dish will hold the oil, which sells at wholesale for eighty cents a gallon.

## HINTS FOR NEWLY MADE HOUSE-KEEPERS.

BY VIRGINIA SHORTRIDGE.

FROM the time Eve commenced her housekeeping after her banishment from the "Garden," I firmly believe a well-regulated household is one of the most deeply grounded desires of every feminine soul, be it in its normal state, and manifested even as early as "doll days." Of course with young housekeepers, a maxim I would early impress upon them is that a good dinner is a good beginning, so I propose taking up the kitchen department—whence I hope many good dinners may emanate. First, then, commencing housekeeping in any large town is of necessity different from living in a country house, owing to the difference in plan and architecture. Let me suggest for a good sized kitchen floor, an oilcloth of good quality with rough surface, costing forty-five cents a yard, and also the saving of having it put down at no matter how reasonable a price, by ordering it cut in lengths to suit the floor before sending it home; and almost any new cook will take sufficient interest to put the few tacks in which are necessary to hold it in place. Let me adjure you at the outset to frown upon any assistance outside your own circle, either for furnace, washing, window cleaning, hanging of curtains, or for anything which usually means, if any leniency in this line is observed, *everything*.



The front basement room can very safely be used as a store-room, or if necessary a masculine den. Under nearly all circumstances it is better to put servant's sleeping rooms upstairs. The floor in hall may be covered with oilcloth like the kitchen. Floor in "den" with warm red matting. Put pine book shelves reaching to ceiling on one side (the broadest) of room, and in the two spaces on either side of mantel shelf, place a desk and steamer chair made cozy with stuffed cover reaching all over it and plenty of cushions.

For the window use warm red (Turkey) curtains lined with Canton flannel of same shade. Short sash curtains of waistnet crossed and ruffled on one side and bottom of each, and tied back with ruffle of same fullness will complete the needs of the window as to drapery. Put a neat but cheap muslin on the kitchen window and also curtain at back, and at front door behind the area gate.

The round centre table will have a red felt cover (be sure shade is in tone the same as curtains).

A plain nickel-plated Miller lamp with dark green shade is a necessary adjunct.

A cheap pair of black andirons, fire screen and plenty of wood to burn will sufficiently decorate the fireplace. Merely remove the old grate and fender, and start your fire. The wood will soon blacken the bricks.

A few chairs, scrap basket, an ash receiver, red curtain at door same as window, and you can gladden almost any masculine mind by such a sanctuary. Paper wall with conventional pattern paper on red tone.